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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

 International Application No  
 PCT/EP 03/00572

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC 7 B25J9/04 B25J9/10		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B25J		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 271 292 A (SAWADA YASUHIRO ET AL) 21 December 1993 (1993-12-21)	1-4, 8-15
Y	column 4 -column 6; figures 1,3,4	5-7
X	US 6 287 406 B1 (ITO TOSHIKAZU ET AL) 11 September 2001 (2001-09-11)	1-4, 12, 15
Y	column 4, line 59 -column 6, line 29; figures 6-8	6, 7
X	EP 0 295 306 A (FANUC LTD) 21 December 1988 (1988-12-21) the whole document	1, 2, 4-6, 12, 13
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 24 April 2003		Date of mailing of the international search report 15/05/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer Kühn, T

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A	column 4, line 11 - line 57; figures 1,2,4  column 8, line 24 - line 39 column 8, line 33 - line 54 ---	1,4,6, 12-15
A	US 5 640 883 A (TAKIZAWA HIROSHI) 24 June 1997 (1997-06-24) column 4, line 18 -column 8, line 5; figures 3-5 ---	1-3,6, 8-13,15
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